REMARKS

Claims 1-33 where pending at the time of the action mailed November 7, 2003. Claims 1-6, 9, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 23, and 25-28 have been amended. Claims 29-33 have been canceled. Claims 34-35 are new. No new matter has been added. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the action in view of the amendments and remarks.

I. The § 103 Rejections

The examiner rejected claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,627,959 to Brown et al. ("Brown").

Claim 1 has been amended to read as follows.

> 1. A computer-implemented method comprising:
>   receiving as an input a selection identifying a trigger event;
>   receiving as an input base visual content;
>   receiving as an input intermediate visual content, each region of the intermediate visual content having a corresponding region in the base visual content;
>   automatically generating viewing visual content from the base visual content, each region of the viewing visual content having a corresponding region in the base visual content and each region of the intermediate visual content having a corresponding region in the viewing visual content;
>   automatically identifying a set of regions in which swap visual content is to be displayed later by a viewing application in place of viewing visual content when the trigger event occurs during execution of the viewing application; and
>   automatically generating the swap visual content from the intermediate visual content and the set of regions.

In considering claim 1, the examiner stated that Brown provides a teaching of automatically identifying regions in which swap visual content is to be displayed, citing col. 3, lines 1-28. The cited passage is reproduced in its entirety below.

> The present invention can be used to create customized procedures.
> When a customized procedure is created, it can be executed at various

"trigger" points. The trigger points include: the expiration of a specified period of time (i.e., timer event); the opening or closure of a display; or, the receipt of an event from a mouse input device (i.e., mouse event).

The present invention provides the ability to associate a customized procedure with the opening or closing of a graphical display. When a display is initially opened, the customized procedure (i.e., an open display trigger) is executed. Similarly, a customized procedure associated with a display closure (i.e., a close display trigger) is executed when a display is closed.

Customized procedures can be associated with a timer event. Thus, a customized procedure can be invoked at a specified timer interval. For example, a customized procedure is specified to be invoked every 0.122 seconds. The procedure will be executed 0.122 seconds after the display is opened, 0.244 seconds after the display is opened, etc.

A mouse event is another event that can trigger a customized procedure. There are several different types of mouse events: mouse button down; mouse move with button(s) down; mouse move with no button(s) down; and mouse button up. A graphic object associated with a customized procedure that is triggered by a mouse event is called a "button object." [Brown, col. 3, lines 1-28]

It is clear that this passage provides no teaching of identifying regions automatically. This passage also provides no teaching of displaying swap visual content, which claim 1 now explicitly recites is content that is to be displayed in the regions "later in place of viewing visual content when the trigger event occurs during execution of the viewing application".

The examiner also stated that "the multi-level graphics grouping" of Brown "could be used as intermediate visual content. It would have been obvious . . . to have used the multi-level graphics grouping . . . as intermediate content to generate swap visual content. It would have been obvious and desirable to classify some of the group object [sic] as intermediate content to create dynamic visual content . . . ." The applicant disagrees. Nothing in Brown supports the notion that the mere act of classifying will create dynamic visual content. Moreover, the examiner points to no teaching or suggestion of the limitation, which was in the original claim, that the swap visual content is generated automatically from the intermediate visual content.

Claim 1 as amended recites further limitations not found in Brown. In particular, claim 1 recites that each region of the viewing visual content has a corresponding region in the base

visual content and that each region of the intermediate visual content has a corresponding region in the viewing visual content. These relationships of the base, intermediate, and viewing visual contents are not found in Brown.

For each of the foregoing reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. The foregoing remarks also apply to independent claim 15, which has corresponding limitations, and the claims that depend, directly and indirectly, from claim 15.

In reference to claims 7, 12, 21, and 26, the examiner stated that Brown teaches "generating a viewing image file," citing fig. 1-3, the text from col. 5 line 60 to col. 6 line 17, and the text in col. 6 lines 27-34, and that Brown teaches "generating . . . a swap image file," citing the same figures and text. The applicant respectfully submits that nowhere does Brown teach generating any kind of image file. The cited figures each illustrate a decomposed graphical object hierarchy. Not one illustrates generating an image file. The text from col. 5 line 60 to col. 6 line 17, introduces the notion of graphical objects. The text, reproduced below, makes no mention of generating an image file, let alone a swap image file.

> Objects are visual components of a graphical display. Objects include arcs, charts, ellipses, imported images, lines, polygons, rectangles, rounded rectangles, freehand shapes, symbols, text, and text fields. Thus, objects are both line-art objects and bit-mapped images. Objects can stand alone as art in a display, or be associated with data, as in a chart. Also, objects can be associated with PL/SQL procedures as buttons. Such objects are clicked at run-time to perform an operation(s). Other display components include queries, chart templates, [and a] PL/SQL editor.
>
> Each object contains a name, event type, and procedure. The name of the object is used in PL/SQL programs to reference the object. However, the name is optional. The procedure is the PL/SQL button procedure associated with the object. The procedure is executed when a specified "mouse event" that is related to the object is detected. Event types specify which mouse events invoke the specified button procedure.
>
> Several objects can be grouped together as a single object. Any operation performed on a group object is applied to all of the individual objects that compose it. A group object can be assigned a PL/SQL procedure that is executed if the user clicks any member of the group. A group object is stored in a group tree. At the top of every group's tree is the root object. It is the top-most object. [Brown col. 5 line 60 to col. 6 line 17]

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A group can comprise other group objects. Thus, the present invention allows multi-level groups that have many levels of group objects. For example, a plurality of single objects and a plurality of groups can be grouped together to form yet another group. The newly formed group is composed of the selected objects, at least one of which objects is composed of a plurality of other objects. [Brown col. 6 lines 27-34]

For the foregoing additional reasons, claims 7, 12, 21, and 26 are allowable.

In reference to claims 9 and 23, the examiner states that Brown teaches "determining, for each section of visual content, if the corresponding section of base visual content visually differs from that section of the intermediate visual content," citing the figures and text just considered (fig. 1-3, col. 5 line 60 to col. 6 line 17, and col. 6 lines 27-34). The examiner appears to read the limitation "visual content" onto Brown's "graphical objects;" however, nowhere in the cited text does Brown teach "determining ... visual[] differ[ences]." The only procedures or operations discussed in the cited text refer to database queries and mouse events. Determining whether two sections of visual content are visually different requires considering the visual content itself, which Brown does not teach or suggest. For the foregoing additional reasons, claims 9 and 23 are allowable.

In reference to claims 14 and 28, the examiner stated that Brown teaches "providing an user interface enabling a designer to edit intermediate visual content as an integral unit," citing col. 5 lines 1-17. The examiner has acknowledged that Brown does not teach intermediate visual content (see examiner's remarks regarding claims 1 and 15), stating that it would be obvious to use groupings of graphical objects as intermediate visual content. Even if this were true, Brown does not teach "providing an user interface to edit intermediate visual content [or the groupings of Brown] as an integral unit." For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 14 and 28 are allowable.

New independent claims 34-35 recite some of the limitations considered above, as well as further limitations that make them allowable over the art.
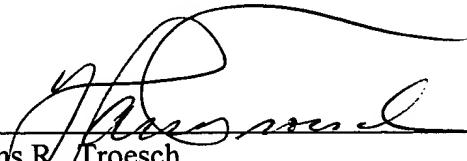
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Enclosed is a $86 check for excess claim. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____06 Feb. 04_____

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